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South and East Asia Report

(FOUO 3/82)

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INDIA

CUBAN NEWS AGENCY ON CIA ACTIVITIES IN SUBCONTINENT

PA192300 Havana PRELA in English 1902 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Article by Ilsa Rodriguez]

[Text] New Delhi, 20 Feb (PL)--A mysterious virus in the plantations, outbreaks of unknown sicknesses and the fear that India might be affected by chemical weapons, are considered here as consequences of the activities of the CIA against that Asiatic nation.

The facts of the last few months make suspicious that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the United States is increasing its pressures against India and that they operate in this country without any restriction of the U.S. Government.

While the CIA is charged of openly using the war of germs against Latin American nations, among them, Cuba, India seems to have also become victim of these plans.

In the middle of 1981, the inhabitants of different regions of this southern African [as received] country began to suffer sudden liver sicknesses and appeared a breakout of conjunctivitis, meningitis and encephalitis.

The agriculture sector has been the mostly affected by the strange appearance of the "green evil", which provokes in the workers of the tobacco plantations a strange sickness which brings respiratory problems, vomits and other effects which are being analyzed by local scientists.

The destruction of great extensions of cultivations of fruits and vegetables in the state of Haryana, north of this capital, also surprised the experts. At the beginning of last December it was reported that the outbreak of this virus, called "small leaves" could only be controlled by removing and destroying the affected plants.

Under these circumstances, the observers gave great importance to the recent expulsion from Pakistan of Professor David Nalin, who is being charged of using the Pakistani-U.S. research center of malaria to produce infected mosquitoes which would be used, in the first place, against its neighbor, Afghanistan.

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That center, located in the Pakistani city of Lahore, is considered among the greatest of the world and the expulsion of Nalin--who was also told to abandon Pakistan immediately--confirms that his work is linked to the bacteriological war carried out by the CIA, although this is being officially denied by the United States.

A similar institution was closed in India in 1972, for the existence of evidences on its participation in the plans of bacteriological war carried out by the CIA.

Meanwhile, sectors of the Indian press have just denounced that this country, together with other ones with coasts to the Indian Ocean, could become guinea-pigs, for the experiment of new U.S. chemical arms, which are being transported in war ships which are operating in this ocean.

Article published on last Monday by the daily NATIONAL HERALD warns on the dangers of the chemical war carried out by the United States and stressed that the reach of the chemical arms and nuclear arms in the Diego Garcia Island is of up to four thousand miles and that India is only 1,200 miles away.

These facts, accusations and rumors are linked here with the recent announcement on that the government of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, is analyzing the creation of a legal commission which would be responsible of investigating the activities of the CIA in India.

According to an article which appeared in the magazine INDIAN OBSERVER numerous intellectuals, politicians, journalists and businessmen of India are working for this U.S. espionage agency.

Local experts, for their part, favourably received the declarations of the minister of the interior [home affairs], Zail Singh, on the prohibition of the activities of foreign missionaries in tribal zones and border line regions of this nation.

During last year, nearly 10 of these so-called religious missionaries were expelled from India for being linked to espionage and intelligence activities.

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PAKISTAN

WALI KHAN INTERVIEWED

Hong Kong FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW in English 2 Apr 82 pp 28, 29

[Text] Veteran political leader Wali Khan gives his critical views on Pakistan's domestic situation and foreign policy

Charsada, Pakistan: In accordance with traditional hospitality, the tall, 65-year-old politician with thick white hair and dressed in a crumpled shalwar kameez offered the casual visitor a pot of tea and plates of cakes and biscuits. With a disarming smile he apologised for the fact that his roses were not yet in bloom. It had, he regretted, been a late spring on Pakistan's northwest frontier.

"Prison," he said, "clears the mind." Abdul Wali Khan, eminence grise of the banned National Democratic Party (NDP), should know. Of his 40 years' political activity, 14 have been spent behind bars and last month he emerged from yet another, albeit brief, spell in the cells. He was detained at a condolence meeting held to mark the murder of a fellow NDP leader and former North West Frontier Province governor, Arbab Sikander Khan, on March 7.

He said: "It was sheer madness. I cannot imagine why the authorities arrested us." He is convinced, however, that Arbab Sikander's death was a political conspiracy. That is a view widespread among people here and the rumour that the killer was inspired by religious fundamentalism has done nothing to improve relations between secular-minded people and their Islamic rivals in the country.

On the widespread speculation over possible elections in Pakistan, Wali Khan remained sceptical: "Those who really know keep silent. Others go in for familiar kite-flying." In his view the members of the newly created Federal Advisory Council, due to start its second session on April 3, were at best advisers and at worst sycophants. From the authorities' point of view the council's creation had already proved counter-productive. "It has raised political expectations, not dissipated them."

Commenting on President Zia-ul Haq's military government he said: "Obviously, we don't live according to policies. We live on the basis of contingencies, stumbling from one crisis to the next, improvising as we go...Running a country is a full-time job. Responding to popular opinion is a full-time job. Defending a country is a full-time job. The military is trying to do all three."

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Blaming the government for merely exploiting the fragmented opposition, he added: "In effect, for the 35 years since independence we have been denied our fundamental political rights in this country. It is fashionable for the authorities to malign politics and politicians...We had more rights--the rights of association, movement and expression--under colonial rule."

The Pathan leader's views on foreign policy also reflect his stand on domestic politics. "Today the No. 1 enemy is the Soviet Union because it is communist. Yet China is now a close ally, and it is communist. How do you reconcile that?" He was critical, also, of American support for Pakistan. "There are basically two ideological camps in the world. The totalitarian camp offers a guarantee of material welfare while sacrificing basic rights. The free world offers human rights, but cannot guarantee material welfare. Therefore Third World countries can expect one or the other. But in this situation, what can we expect?"

Reflecting on another dilemma for his country, he asked rhetorically: Pakistan wanted Afghan refugees to return home to elect their own government and to be free to choose their own ideology, but did Islamabad offer that choice to its own people? "Some Afghan refugee groups in Pakistan are encouraged to enter the political life of the nation. They can go to meetings. We cannot." Dwelling on the presence of Afghan refugees he said: "You are creating a problem here. In the settled areas of the province there are 3 million people. There are 2.5 million refugees from Afghanistan and most of them are in North West Frontier Province."

Wali Khan is presently engaged in a lively debate with Attorney-General Shari-uddin Pirzada over the former's recent allegations--based, he says, on official British correspondence between New Delhi and London--to the effect that the concept of Pakistan as a separate state for Muslims was a colonial ploy, engineered by Britain and to which the nation's founder, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, was a conscious accessory. The ferocious response to what is otherwise an academic controversy demonstrates how the issue strikes at the root of Zia's Islamisation policy.

Asked if the state of Pakistan was viable today and if integration of four provinces comprising four language groups was effective, he responded: "Sovereignty depends on the state's institutions: its parliament, its judiciary, its executive and its press. . .Integration is only possible through democratic processes."

Soon after Wali Khan was released from jail last month, authorities gave him permission on humanitarian grounds to visit Afghanistan. His 92-year-old father Abdul Ghafar Khan--the grand old man of Pakhtoon politics who is in self-exile in Kabul--has been hospitalised with a broken hip.

Would not such a visit lend itself to speculation that Kabul and its Soviet sponsors are using the founders of the NDP--a banned political party striving for provincial autonomy--for their own ends? Wali Khan dismissed the question, saying such allegations were not new. He said he had been accused of treachery before by the late premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

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